

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

People have their own ways of expressing their feelings. They can express their anger, love, passion and so on through writing poems, stories, and so on. A story itself can be a short story and novel. Indonesia has many famous writers for examples Ayu Utami, Dewi Lestari, H.B Yassin, etc. Meanwhile, America also has Mark Twain who was famous for his novels and other writers. But there is a difficulty when the novels from foreign country come to Indonesia, which both of the countries have different languages and at the same time, different cultures. That is why a translator is needed. A translator is a person who conveys a written message from one language into another language. Translation itself is an attempt of transferring a written message from one language-in the same ways as the writer has in his mind-into another. According to Newmark (1982: 7), translation is a craft consisting [in] the attempt to replace a written message and/or statement in one language by the same message and/or statement in another language. A translator requires knowledge of literary and non-literary textual criticism, since he has to assess the quality of a text before he decides how to interpret and translate it. The role of the translator is to facilitate the transfer of message, meaning, and cultural elements from one language into another and create an equivalent response from the receivers. The message in the source language is embedded a cultural content and has to be transferred to target language (Nida

1964:13). If a text has been translated, it represents distance between at least two cultures. In this way, translation studies avoid having to link up all the points of contiguity in the way that political frontiers do. After all, there is no obvious reason why points of contact and exchange between cultures should form continuous lines.

Nida (1964: 166) says that defining a dynamic equivalent translation is to describe it as “the closest natural equivalent to the source language message”. This definition contains three essential terms, namely (1) *equivalent*, which refers to the source language message; (2) *natural*, which refers to the receptor language; and (3) *closest*, which “binds the two orientations together on basis of the highest degree of approximation”. *Natural* refers to three areas of the communication process: a natural rendering should fit the whole receptor language and culture, the context of specific message, and the receptor-language audience. Therefore the translation should bear no obvious trace of foreign origin. A natural translation would have to deal with two main areas of adaptation, which is grammar and lexicon. The grammatical adaptation takes places more readily since one is obliged to make adjustment such as shifting word order or using nouns instead of verbs in the receptor language. The lexical structure of the source message is less easily adjusted to semantic requirements of the receptor language because there are no strict grammatical rules but a variety of options.

Nida (1964: 167) also says, “no translation that attempts to bridge a wide cultural gap can hope to eliminate all traces of foreign setting”. He goes on to say that “it is inevitable that when source and receptor languages represent very

difficult cultures there should be many basic themes and accounts which cannot be 'naturalized' by the process of translating". Naturalness of expression in the receptor is according to Nida (1964:168), basically a problem of co-suitability. The problem occurs at several levels.

- (1) word classes (where a noun is used instead of the verb);
- (2) grammatical categories (in some languages predicate-nominatives must agree in number with the subject);
- (3) semantic classes;
- (4) discourse types (some languages require direct quotation and other indirect); and
- (5) cultural context (some practice are strange to other culture).

Based on it, the researcher is interested in conducting the research in analyzing the translation of the cultural words in "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer". The researcher has chosen the novel because the novel is intended for children. In this the researcher thinks that if the novel is translated as what is written, children of ours will find some difficulties in getting what the story tells, in this case about "things" which exist in foreign language but not in our language. As we know already that the aim of translation itself is to convey such information of what the content of the text, the situation (in a novel or story) and to convey what the writer actually has in his mind then there is a proper communication. And if the hearer or the reader gets the message in the same way as the speaker or the writer has in his mind, then there is a proper communication. Proper communication is assumed to take place in a situation where a writer or a

speaker transmits a message, via a channel—writing or speaking—to a reader or a hearer. However the quality of the message, the channel through the message is conveyed and other situational factors may lead to a distortion of the message in the mind of the reader or hearer. A natural translation must also be in accordance with the context of the specific message, which would include grammatical and lexical elements but also detailed manners such as intonation and sentences rhythm. For instance, a translator should be sensitive to the register and style of the source text and thus to be aware not to use slang, vulgarities or colloquialisms when not asked in a text. The translator should, however, not turn a straightforward piece of a text into a technical work that is longwinded and difficult to understand.

Here, Balai Pustaka which was represented by Abdoel Moeis has translated “The Adventures of Tom Sawyer” novel into Bahasa Indonesia. Abdoel Moeis was one of the Balai Pustaka generations.

The most important thing that the researcher wanted to emphasize is what procedures are actually employed by the translator, Abdoel Moeis, in translating the cultural words in the novel from foreign country in this case American into Indonesian so the novel can be read by the children easily

1.2 Statements of the Problem

1. Divided in what categories are the cultural words found in “The Adventures of Tom Sawyer” novel?
2. What procedures are employed by the translator to translate the cultural words in “The Adventure of Tom Sawyer” novel?

1.3. Limitation of the Problems

The scope of this study is limited only to analyze the cultural words in “The Adventures of Tom Sawyer” novel translated into Indonesian culture related to the target readers by Abdoel Moeis.

1.4. The Objective of Study

The objectives of this study are:

1. To know how the cultural words are categorized in order to get a nearest lexical equivalent.
2. To find out the procedures employed by the translator to translate the cultural words in “The Adventures of Tom Sawyer” novel.

1.5. The Aim of the Study

The aim of the study is considered important, generally to help translators in handling difficulties in translating cultural words. Specifically, it is expected help the students and teachers of English Department in translating cultural words of a story or novel from different language..

1.6. The Assumption

Every language possesses specific words for special kinds of “things”, events or customs. Thus vocabulary is considered the best evidence of the reality of culture that is called cultural words. The choice of appropriate diction in translating cultural words of a text or novel will help the reader understand the text. The translator plays an important role in making the translation appropriate for the target readers of different cultural backgrounds.

1.7. Research Method

This research uses some descriptive analysis approaches in order to elaborate in detail the information gathered from the research as Sowel and Casey (in Fitria (2004:7)) explain, “A descriptive research uses the existing situation for data collection and does not require any manipulation of variables by the researchers”. The aim of this method is to make a systematic and accurate description about the facts of particular object.

1.8. Collecting the Corpus

The corpus are collected from ‘The Adventures of Tom Sawyer’ novel and its translation.

1.9 Sample

The cultural words in a novel entitled “The Adventure of Tom Sawyer” written by Mark Twain, published by Harper & Brothers Publishers, New York

and the translated version by Abdoel Moeis and published by Balai Pustaka Jakarta in 2001 of which the title is translated by the translator to be “Tom Sawyer Anak Amerika” are decided to be the sample of the study.

2. Classification of the Key Terms.

- Translation is rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text. (Newmark, 1988: 5)
- Cultural words are specific words for special kinds of “things”, events or customs which only exist in one language, for example *moccasins* (American-Indian soft leather shoe).
- Proper communication occurs if the hearer or the reader gets the same messages the same way as the speaker or the writer had in his mind.

2.1 Organization of the Paper

Chapter I

This section contains introduction which is divided into background, statements of the problem, aims of research, assumption, hypothesis, research method, and classification of the terms and organization of the paper.

Chapter II

It consists of theoretical foundations that provide a basis for conducting the research.

Chapter III

This section contains the methodology of the research that discuss the steps and procedure of the research, the sample of research and the reason of choosing its procedure.

Chapter IV

This part reports the result of the study, containing the research findings and discussion.

Chapter V

This last chapter encompasses the interpretation of the result of the research in a form of conclusion and the implication or suggestion in accordance with this research.

